

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION**

**MASTER PATIENT INDEX/PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS (MPI/PD)**

**Overview**

The Master Patient Index database and the Master Patient Index/Patient Demographics (MPI/PD) software provide an index mechanism that uniquely identifies each active patient treated by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and identifies the healthcare facilities where a patient is receiving care. The index synchronizes key patient demographic data including patient name, sex, social security number, date of birth, and mother's maiden name. The synchronization of data is crucial to the sharing of patient information across sites in matching data with the proper patient, identifying possible mismatched patients/data, as well as reducing redundant updates if a patient returns for future care. MPI/PD supports VHA's move from a model that once focused on relatively independent medical facilities to one based on the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs). The MPI/PD software also supports sharing patient information between treating facilities regardless of geographical location.

**Features**

The most significant goal of MPI/PD is to identify a unique patient and any of the VA facilities where that patient receives care by linking to the patient's information throughout VHA facility databases. Two major components of the application are the MPI and the PD functionality. The MPI provides the ability to uniquely identify a patient and the facilities where the patient receives care across the VHA Enterprise by assigning an Integration Control Number (ICN) and a Coordinating Master of Record (CMOR) site to each patient. It also tracks all treating facilities where a patient has received care. This technology allows a clinician to easily retrieve patient care information via the Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) Remote Data Views feature. The PD component sends patient demographic updates to each facility that has treated the patient, ensuring the synchronization of patient data at those sites.

The Health Eligibility Center (HEC), the Government Computer-based Patient Record (GCPR), and the OI Office of Health Data and Informatics staff also use the MPI to identify unique patients in an effort to eliminate duplicate patient records and to improve data quality. The MPI will be a key component in the development of the Health Data Repository (HDR) and other applications that support uniquely identifying patients. The use of the ICN is also being studied for a number of VHA national databases, such as the National Patient Care Database (NPCD).

**Summary**

The MPI/PD currently has a database of nearly eight million patients. Patients seen three years prior to each facility's implementation of the software to the present are included. A future enhancement will enumerate all patients (active and inactive) with an ICN that will more than double the number of unique patients stored within the MPI database.